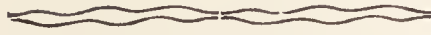


Huntingdon Urban District Council.



REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON

FOR THE YEAR 1904,

BY


HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



HUNTINGDON :
WOOD, PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

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TO THE
HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Borough of Huntingdon is situate on the north bank of the river Ouse, and is composed of a long street a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river, several side streets turn off from the main street, and there are many courts and alleys; the suburb of Newtown is about half-a-mile from the High Street in an easterly direction.

The Borough is more or less surrounded by Commons. The area in acres is 976, the soil is gravel.

House accommodation is of a mixed character, that for the working classes is yearly improving, the old thatched houses are disappearing, and more modern ones are taking their places. There is plenty of air space around the dwelling-houses, the surroundings are fairly good, but more might be done in the way of gravelling and paving the yards. There has been much improvement in this respect during the past year.

Bye-laws relating to the erection of new dwelling-houses are in force, and plans are submitted to your Surveyor.

Sewerage and Drainage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharging into the river. An intercepting tank is now in working order near the outlet of the sewer and is doing good service. The drains are well ventilated, but inspection of the ventilators is a matter of great importance, and should be well looked after. The drains are regularly flushed by means of a flushing cart. The old brick sewers have been in many places removed and

replaced by sanitary pipes. There is a separate system of drainage for Newtown which discharges into a small watercourse before reaching the river. The state of this watercourse is not satisfactory. The drains are flushed by the water flushing cart, and are well ventilated.

The disposal of excrement is mostly effected by the sewers. I should like to see a more general adoption of the pail system, and the excrement carted out of the Borough proper, into some field where it could not contaminate any water supply, and where it might be utilized for manurial purposes.

The question of a new system of sewerage has engaged the attention of your Authority for some time, and visits have been paid to various places where modern systems have been adopted, none of which at present seem to be perfect.

Removal of Refuse.

House refuse is regularly removed by your Scavengers, and is carted out of the Borough to a field at Hartford. I should like to see Sanitary dust bins in more general use, both for the good of the people, and the saving of labour of your Scavengers.

Water.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from the gravel of the Ouse valley, and is collected by pipes laid in the gravel bed, and conveyed into a well, from which it is pumped into a reservoir, and distributed over the town by gravitation ; there is also a high pressure service to supply some of the houses that stand on high levels. The supply to the town generally is constant.

The gathering grounds in which the pipes are laid is far removed from any means of contamination from sewage pollution, or from the soakage of manurial products. I believe the recent work executed at the waterworks has effectually removed the turbidity of the water during floods, of which I have spoken in former reports.

A few wells remain in the town, but I hope they will soon all be done away with.

Eight samples of well water were sent for analysis during the year, six of these were condemned as unfit for drinking purposes. The wells were closed, and the town water laid on.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

There is no registered lodging house in the Borough. *Factories, Workshops, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Cow Sheds, and Milk Shops*, are all regularly inspected by your Inspector of Nuisances.

The Schools are also inspected.

There is a *Carriage Manufactory* in the Borough, the Sanitary arrangements of which are satisfactory.

Abatement of Nuisances.

Your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Brown, makes frequent inspections, and if nuisances are not abated he gets an order from your Council for their removal.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Notification of Infectious Diseases has been in force since the first passing of the Act.

Isolation Hospital.

There is an Isolation Hospital, which I regret to say is still shared by St. Ives Rural and Urban Districts. I should like to see a combination of the Godmanchester Urban District and the Parishes of Hartford, Brampton, and Great Stukeley in the Hunts. Rural District, so that we could protect our own immediate neighbourhood, instead of importing cases of Infectious Diseases from a distance.

An outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurring in October and November, and continuing till the end of the year, over-taxed the accommodation provided at the Isolation Hospital, and had it not been for the prompt action of

your Committee allowing me to secure new beds and bedding, and closing the Hospital to all cases except Scarlet Fever, many cases would have had to be attended to in their own homes. The Hospital Wards being large, and well ventilated, a considerable number of beds and cots were provided, and by these means accommodation was made for all the Huntingdon cases.

At the time the Isolation Hospital was provided, at my suggestion, in case of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever Mr. Fielden generously consented to provide a temporary Hospital with 40 beds, and although the ground was levelled, and drains laid for the site of this Hospital, it was never obtained.

The Small Pox Hospital is ready for use at a few hours' notice.

Disinfection.

There is an excellent disinfecting apparatus at the Isolation Hospital, which can be used for the disinfection of clothes and bedding from the Borough. You also possess Alformant Lamps for the disinfection of Houses with Formic Aldehyde vapour.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic inspection of the whole district, accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances. I have made frequent inspections of localities where infectious cases have arisen, and where nuisances have existed, and in the latter case your Inspector has given orders for my instructions to be carried out.

Births and Deaths.

The births of 98 children were registered during the year, 59 boys and 39 girls, making a birth-rate of 23·2 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 94 persons were registered in the district, of these 34 were non-residents, making the total number of deaths of residents 60, a rate of 14·0 per 1000 persons living.

Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.

Forty-seven cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. Erysipelas, 6 ; Scarlet Fever, 39 ; Enteric Fever, 1 ; Diphtheria, 1.

Diphtheria.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, no definite cause could be ascertained, and the Isolation Hospital being closed to everything except Scarlet Fever, this case was treated at home.

Erysipelas.

Of six cases of Erysipelas notified, in five no definite cause could be ascertained.

Scarlet Fever.

An outbreak of Scarlet Fever, beginning in October, and becoming intensified in November, I reported the same to the Local Government Board. 39 cases were notified, all these cases with one exception were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

One case was notified. No definite cause could be ascertained. This case was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified. I hope we may soon see Re-vaccination made compulsory. Until a scare of Small Pox arises people seem to be perfectly indifferent to its necessity.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Five deaths from Bronchitis occurred making an average of 1.1 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

Three deaths from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases were registered during the year, making an average of .72 per 1000 persons living.

Diarrhoea.

No death from Diarrhoea occurred.

Cancer.

Five deaths from Cancer occurred, making an average of 1.1 per 1000 persons living.

Food and Drug Adulteration.

Samples of Scotch Whisky, American Lard, Baking Powder, Egg Powder, Black Pepper, and Mixed Biscuits were sent for analysis, and all found to be pure.

One sample of New Milk was found to contain 18 per cent. added water, a fine and costs of 17/6 was inflicted.

Public Mortuary.

A public Mortuary has been provided, and I hope the public may be advised as to the removal of bodies of persons dying of infectious and contagious disease from their dwelling-houses to this most necessary institution.

I append Report of Factories and Workshops, and the Report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brown.

- Table 1. Vital Statistics.
 „ 2. Of Infectious Disease Notified.
 „ 3. Of Mortality.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
 Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,
*Medical Officer of Health,
 Huntingdon Urban District Council.*

Huntingdon,

March 4th, 1905.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the past year.

The Slaughter-houses in the Borough are well kept and regularly limewashed, in accordance with the Bye-laws.

The recommendation of the Council as to pigs being stunned or pole-axed before slaughter, is acted upon generally with satisfactory results.

All the Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, have been frequently inspected by me, and I have found them to be well kept, and the utensils in use perfectly clean.

Owing to complaints from residents at Newtown respecting the keeping of pigs in close proximity to dwelling-houses, I gave the requisite notices to the owners, and the pigs have now been removed.

I have found several drains, &c., blocked during my visits, and on informing the owners they have been at once attended to. Several new drains have been put in.

I forwarded a sample of Ice Cream, purchased in the Streets in August last, to the Analyst, which was certified to be genuine.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRED BROWN,

Sanitary Inspector.

Huntingdon,

January, 1905.

The following is a summary of the work which has been carried out :—

Drains unstopped and repaired.....	48
Manure and other refuse removed...	20
Closets unstopped.....	15
Yard surface repaired	5
Slaughter-houses inspected.....	6
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected ...	5
Bakehouses inspected	7
Pigstyes and Yards unclean	3
Over-crowded Houses.....	3

Waterworks.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that I have made periodical inspection of the Service in the Borough, and occasionally found water running to waste, caused principally by children.

Several new taps and washers have been provided.

In October last a public notice was issued to the effect that immediate notice should be given of any defective taps or waste of water.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRED BROWN,

Inspector.

Huntingdon,

December, 1904.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1904 for the Borough of Huntingdon.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1 —INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries)	3
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries)	2	2	...
Workplaces
Homeworkers' Premises
Total	5	2	...

2.—Defects found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	
Want of Ventilation	1	1	...
Sanitary accommodation } Insufficient }	1	1	...
Total	2	2	...

3.—Other matters.

Workshops on the Register at the end of 1904 24

TABLE I.—*Huntingdon Urban District.*

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
		Number.	Rate*	At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.			Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.*
				Under 1 year of Age.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	4346	90	20·7	12	133·3	80	18·4	31	29	1	52	11·9
1895	4346	104	23·9	18	173·07	93	21·39	31	26	0	67	15·4
1896	4346	101	23·2	13	128·7	79	18·1	19	20	0	59	13·5
1897	4546	119	26·1	14	117·6	96	21·1	32	24	0	72	15·8
1898	4546	113	24·8	13	115·04	85	18·7	30	22	0	63	13·8
1899	4546	113	24·8	13	115·04	79	17·3	33	27	0	52	11·4
1900	4546	101	22·2	13	128·7	88	19·3	35	26	0	62	13·6
1901	4261	106	24·9	10	94·3	88	20·6	35	26	0	62	14·5
1902	4261	100	24·4	11	111·11	101	23·7	42	26	1	76	17·8
1903	4261	95	22·2	11	115·8	77	18·07	31	23	0	54	12·6
Averages for years 1894-1903	4400	104·2	23·7	12·8	123·26	85·6	19·66	31·9	24·9	·2	61·9	14·03
1904	4261	98	23·2	11	112·24	94	22·06	44	34	0	60	14·08

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water)

976.

Total population at all ages
Number of Inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house

4,261
1,025
4·1

At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District :—County Hospital, Union Workhouse, Isolation Hospital, Union Workhouse.

TABLE III.—*Huntingdon Urban District.*

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							HOSPITAL.
	At Ages†—Years.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small Pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	1		1					
Membranous croup								
Erysipelas	6					3	3	
Scarlet fever	39		8	27	1	3		38
Typhus fever.....								
Enteric fever.....	1					1		1
Relapsing fever.....								
Continued fever.....								
Puerperal fever								
Plague								
TOTALS.....	47		9	27	1	7	3	39

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Near Cemetery within the District.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.—Hartford.

TABLE IV.

Huntingdon Urban District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Enteric Fever	1					1		1
Epidemic Influenza								
Phthisis	2					2		1
Other tubercular diseases	1		1					1
Cancer, malignant disease.....	5					2	3	4
Bronchitis	5	3				1	1	1
Pneumonia								1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver.....								
Premature birth	5	5						2
Heart diseases	10				1	3	6	10
Accidents.....	1		1					2
Suicides	1					1		1
All other causes	29	3	1		1	4	20	20
All causes	60	11	3		2	14	30	44

